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(54) Title: IMPROVED HERBICIDAL FORMULATION

#### (57) Abstract

(30) Priority data:

This invention relates to a novel aqueous agriculturally acceptable formulation, a process used to prepare it and a pesticidal method of using it in application to plants or weeds to kill or control plants or weeds. The formulation comprises an effective amount of N-phosphonomethylglycine or an agriculturally acceptable salt of N-phosphonomethylglycine and an effective amount of at least one C5 to C16 or preferably a C8 to C12 agriculturally acceptable fatty acid itself or in the form of an agriculturally acceptable water soluble salt or mixtures thereof. Other ingredients are optional, including surfactant(s), antifoam(s) and antimicrobial(s) or other ingredients such as pesticides including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides.

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#### IMPROVED HERBICIDAL FORMULATION

#### Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a novel aqueous

agriculturally acceptable herbicidal formulation, a
process used to prepare it and a herbicidal method of
using it in applying it to weeds or plants to kill and
control weeds or plants.

10 The formulation, preferably a herbicidally efficacious formulation, comprises an effective amount of an agriculturally acceptable salt of N-phosphonomethylglycine and a herbicidally effective amount of at least one agriculturally acceptable fatty acid or a salt 15 thereof or a mixture of fatty acids and a salt(s) thereof or a mixture of salts of a fatty acid(s) giving in an aqueous solution to be applied to plants or a desired locus a pH in a desired range. Other ingredients are optional, including surfactant(s), 20 antifoam(s), antimicrobial(s) or one or more additional pesticides including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides. As used herein, the term "agriculturally acceptable" includes residential and industrial uses.

## 25 <u>Description of the Prior Art</u>

Glyphosate (N-phosphonomethylglycine) well-known as an effective herbicide is an organic acid, and is relatively insoluble in water. Therefore, glyphosate is normally formulated and applied as a water-soluble salt, specially as the isopropylamine salt (IPA salt).

Various formulations of glyphosate are disclosed in U.S. Patents 4,405,531 issued to John E. Franz on September 20, 1983; 3,799,580 issued to John E. Franz on March 26, 1974; and 4,840,659 issued to John E. Franz on June 20, 1989. These patents are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. Roundup® herbicide an aqueous concentrate comprising the IPA salt of

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glyphosate is sold by Monsanto Company as an aqueous concentrate formulation which is normally diluted in water prior to application.

SharpShooter(TM) Herbicide Concentrate from Safer Inc. is said to contain fatty acid(s) as active ingredients such as those having 8 to 12 carbon atoms and mixtures thereof. It is believed used as a vegetation suppression agent.

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SharpShooter(TM) is non-selective, and shows the result of its contact with weeds and unwanted vegetation in the form of necrosis, leaf burn, desiccation, wilting and the like. Typical fatty acids known to produce such symptoms are pelargonic and n-capric acid.

Pelargonic acid referred to also as nonanoic acid, nonylic acid and nonoic acid has the empirical formula  $C_0H_{18}O_2$ .

20

n-Capric Acid known also as n-decanoic acid, has the empirical formula  $C_{10}H_{20}O_2$ .

pcT/US88/03582 (W089/03178) of Safer, Inc.

25 discloses a herbicidal composition and method for nonselectively controlling and retarding the growth rate
and, if desired, causing extensive mortality of unwanted
vegetation. The compositions consist essentially of one
or more substances selected from the group consisting of

30 aliphatic acids or their herbicidally active salts,
disclosed preferably as octanoic acid, nonanoic acid,
decanoic acid, n-decanoic acid, or dodecanoic acid, and
an ammonium compound, preferably ammonium nitrate,
sulfate or sulfamate. The composition is said to cause
35 a plant mortality significantly in excess of the
expected additive mortalities of the individual
components.

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- U.S. Patent 4,975,110 issued to George S. Puritch et al discloses an environmentally compatible herbicidal composition, consisting essentially of a herbicidally effective amount of a saturated linear monocarboxylic fatty acid selected from the group consisting of the acids caprylic, pelargonic, capric, undecanoic, lauric and mixtures thereof; and a surfactant component.
- U.S. Patent 3,870,503 issued to Louis G. Nickell on March 11, 1975 discloses that sucrose yield of sugarcane is increased by treating sugarcane a few weeks prior to harvest with a sugar cane ripening agent selected from the group consisting of n-valeric (pentanoic) acid and alkali metal salts or ethyl esters of an aliphatic monoacid having from one to five carbon atoms.
- U.S. Patent 4,134,754 issued to Otto L. Hoffmann on January 16, 1979 discloses that the activity of

  20 barban is enhanced and variation of selectivity with climatic conditions is alleviated by applying to wild oats an effective amount of a composition comprising one part by weight carbon and at least four parts by weight of a polyunsaturated fatty acid exemplified by linolenic 25 acid. The composition is preferably either dispersed in water with the aid of an emulsifier or dissolved in a mixture of water and a volatile organic solvent such as acetone.
- 30 U.S. Patent 4,436,547 issued to Michael J.
  Sampson on March 13, 1984 discloses that the effect of
  fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, nematocides and
  plant-growth regulators, is improved by co-administration of them with one or more of the following
  35 additives: carbohydrates, organic acids (particularly
  fatty acids and acids of the Krebs tricarboxylic acid
  cycle), vitamins and co-enzymes, purine and pyrimidine
  nucleosides and nucleotides, naturally occurring fats

and oils, certain amino acids and (but not where the agricultural chemical is itself a plant-growth regulator) plant-growth regulators. The invention is said to provide compositions containing one or more of the said agricultural chemicals and one or more of the said additives and methods of improving the harvest of a given crop by applying to it one or more of the said agricultural chemicals and one or more of the additives, either simultaneously or within up to about ten days of one another.

U.S. Patent 4,626,274 issued to Heinz Hausmann on December 2, 1986 discloses that a known herbicide such as a urea, carboxylic acid ester, aminoacid, benzoic derivative, benzonitrile, phenol derivative, diphenyl ether, triazinone, triazinedione, heterocycle, dipyridil derivative or benzosulphonamide, is rendered more effective by being combined with a synthetic spreading agent such as a silicone oil, etc.

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US Patent 4,966,728 issued to James L. Hazen, on October 30,1990 discloses herbicide adjuvants which are said to enhance the effectiveness of a broad spectrum of postemergent herbicides. These adjuvants preferably contain a low foaming nonionic surfactant, an anionic surfactant, a lower alkanol ester of a fatty acid, and a hydrocarbon oil component.

US Patent 4,902,334 issued to Azuma et al on

February 20, 1990 discloses a plant metabolism

regulating agent comprising as an active ingredient an
alpha, beta or beta, gamma-unsaturated carboxylic acid

or its derivative. This concept is said to be useful

for controlling the metabolism of a plant, facilitating

the growth of a beneficial plant such as cereals by
inhibiting the growth of undesirable plants or
eradicating them, regulating the growth of a plant and
dwarfing a plant.

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US Patent 4,904,645 issued to George S. Puritch et al on February 27, 1990 discloses a combination of pyrethrum and fatty acid salt material which is said to 5 provide a stable, commercially useful and environmentally safe pesticidal formulation. The specific composition comprises an aqueous solution having a pH within the range of 7.5 to 8.8; an aqueous solution comprising about 50% by weight of monocarboxylic acids 10 and their alkali metal salts, where the acid mixture is at least 70% oleic acid and 6% linoleic acid; a pyrethrum extract; a solvent for the pyrethrum, which is preferably a 2-6 carbon alcohol; a trace amount of an antioxidant. The composition is said to be effective 15 against insects of at least the orders Homoptera, Coleoptera, Dermaptera, Hemiptera, and Lepidoptera, and against crustacea of the order Isopoda.

#### OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

aqueous concentrate or ready to apply formulation comprising glyphosate or a water soluble salt of glyphosate and a fatty acid or a salt thereof or a mixture of fatty acids and salt thereof or a mixture of salts of the fatty acid(s) such that the early burndown symptoms on plants of the fatty acid and/or its salt or mixtures thereof are seen and the long term herbicidal control achieved by the use of the glyphosate is maintained and not sacrificed, eliminated or reduced by the contact action of the fatty acid or its water soluble salt. Enhanced shelf-stability is provided when the application pH is in the preferred range.

Without being bound by theory, it is believed

35 that the fatty acid is the responsible moiety for providing the early contact visible symptoms on plants treated with a fatty acid salt contained in a formulation of this invention.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The foregoing objects are provided in an agriculturally acceptable herbicidal composition comprising herbicidally effective amounts of each of:

- a) N-phosphonomethylglycine (glyphosate) or an agriculturally acceptable water soluble salt of N-phosphonomethylglycine or a compound which metabolizes
   thereto and
- b) a fatty acid such as a C<sub>5</sub> to C<sub>16</sub> or preferably a C<sub>8</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> saturated or unsaturated, straight or branched chain fatty acid or an agriculturally acceptable salt(s) thereof or a mixture of fatty acids
   15 and salt(s) thereof or a mixture of salts of a fatty acid(s) recognizing that such fatty acids may themselves be mixtures.
- A preferred composition is wherein the ratio of 20 a) to b) is in the range from about 1:10 to about 10:1 by weight and more preferably wherein the ratio of a) to b) is in the range from about 1:5 to about 5:1 and most preferably in the range from about 1:3 to about 3:1.
- Especially preferred are the mono-isopropylamine and the trimethylsulfonium salts of N-phosphonomethylglycine.
- Especially preferred are the potassium salts of 30 capric fatty acid and pelargonic fatty acid and mixtures thereof. Potassium nonanoate and potassium decanoate may be employed.
- Also disclosed is a method of killing or

  controlling plants where a herbicidally effective amount
  of the above described herbicidal composition is applied
  to said plants to kill or control said plants and
  wherein the early burndown effect of application of the

fatty acid or a salt thereof can be readily seen leaving intact the longer term control opportunity which is provided by simultaneous application of glyphosate or of the glyphosate moiety in the form of a water soluble salt of glyphosate or a compound which metabolizes to glyphosate.

Also disclosed is a process for preparing herbicidal compositions of this invention wherein a base such as those providing hydroxide in water preferably an amine or alkali metal or alkaline earth metal hydroxide most preferably potassium hydroxide is employed to control the desired final adjusted pH in the range from about 6.4 to about 7.8 and preferably in the range from about 6.8 to about 7.0 to provide an improved storage stable formulation, which is ready to use or ready to dilute.

## Detailed Description of the Invention

- The present invention relates to an agriculturally acceptable herbicidal, shelf-stable ready to use or shelf-stable aqueous concentrate formulation of N-phosphonomethylglycine or a water soluble salt of N-phosphonomethylglycine or salts or mixtures thereof, with one or more C<sub>5</sub> to C<sub>16</sub> or preferably C<sub>8</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> saturated or unsaturated, straight or branched chained fatty acid itself or in the form of a salt, salts or various mixtures thereof.
- Various optional ingredients may also be employed if desired although not required. Greater or lesser amounts of those optional additiments may be employed as desired.
- When the application pH of the formulation of the present invention is in the range from about 6.4 to about 7.8, and more preferably in the range from about 6.8 to about 7.0, the formulations of this invention

show increased shelf-stability in that they do not experience separation such as salting out or settling out of one or more ingredients when stored for prolonged periods of time at normal room temperatures or when undergoing accelerated aging studies done at 50°C or 60°C or at freezing temperatures.

As used herein, the phrase "early burndown symptoms" means visible plant symptoms characteristic of the contact action of a fatty acid or a salt thereof upon the leaf of a plant when applied in an effective amount alone to the surface of a plant. Such symptoms illustratively include necrosis, leafburn, desiccation, wilting and the like as visible evidence of herbicidal effectiveness.

As used herein, the term "long term control"
means a significant inhibition of regrowth which is
achieved through the use of a herbicidally effective
20 amount of glyphosate (or glyphosate salt or a mixture
thereof) on a plant to be killed or controlled.

at least one water-soluble salt of glyphosate or a

25 mixture of such salts. Several processes for the
preparation of glyphosate and its water soluble salts
are disclosed in the patent and chemical literature,
e.g., U.S. Patents 3,977,860 and 4,486,358. Illustrative suitable water-soluble salts of glyphosate

30 useful in the present invention are disclosed in U.S.
Patent 4,405,531. The isopropylamine salt of glyphosate
is most preferred in the formulation, preparation of the
formulation and use of the present invention.

If desired, one or more of ammonium sulfate or potassium sulfate or any other compatible active or compatible nonactive ingredient may be employed as an additional ingredient(s) in a process for preparing a

formulation of the present invention, in its preparation and its use.

- If ammonium sulfate is used during the formu
  15 lation process, the formulation is normally filtered (or optional equivalent means) to remove any insoluble particulate materials which may be present in some commercial grades of ammonium sulfate.
- The concentrates and solutions of the invention may contain optional additional components, for example anti-freeze agents such as ethylene glycol and propylene glycol.
- Other examples are dyes, thickening agents, antifoam agents, for instance silicone-based anti-foam agents, and surfactants, for instance non-ionic or cationic surfactants.
- Additional illustrative suitable nonionic surfactants are recited in U.S. Patent 4,405 531 supra. Other suitable nonionic surfactants will be known to those skilled in the art.
- Other surfactants which may be employed include alkylamine oxides, alkyl glucosides, ethoxylated or propoxylated quaternary amines and dialkylacetylene surfactants.
- Particularly preferred, although optional, is an ethoxylated tallow amine surfactant having a degree of ethoxylation in the range from about 15 to about 18, mixtures thereof and the like. One such surfactant is Entry II, sold by Monsanto Company, St. Louis, Missouri USA.

The amount of surfactant optionally employed is typically in the range from about 0 to about 2 percent

by weight of a ready to use formulation of a spray solution formed by dilution with water of a concentrate formulation of this invention.

The concentrates and ready to use solutions of this invention may also be mixed with other watersoluble herbicides, for example but not limited to, salts of 2,4- dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, dicamba or 4-chloro-2-methylphenoxyacetic acid, or with finely-divided water-insoluble herbicides, for example but not limited to triazines, substituted ureas, sulfonylureas diphenyl ethers, dinitroanilines, pyridines and the like.

While Roundup® herbicide is the preferred source of a glyphosate water soluble salt, other suitable formulations providing a water soluble glyphosate salt or glyphosate acid may be employed if desired.

20 Alternatively, the water soluble glyphosate salt or an aqueous solution thereof may be prepared and then added directly as one of the process preparation steps.

Some compositions of the invention were prepared

25 by stirring about a 62 percent by weight aqueous

solution of the mono-isopropylamine salt of glyphosate

at about room temperature with the desired amount of

fatty acid as a potassium salt and optionally, with a

saturated solution of ammonium sulfate.

30

The formulations of the present invention may be conveniently prepared by mixing the desired ingredients together as in a blender or in any suitable container or device producing the needed amount of agitation

35 resulting in mixed ingredients.

Formulation examples were generally prepared by the following process:

- (1) adding all or a portion of the desired amount of initial water in a first container,
- (2) adding a portion of water and potassium hydroxide to the desired amount of fatty acid in a5 separate container to form a premix,
  - (3) adding the fatty acid containing the potassium hydroxide in the premix from the separate container to the first container containing the initial water,
- 4) adding a water soluble salt of N-phosphonomethylglycine alone with surfactant to the first container to form a desired final non pH adjusted mixture/solution,
- 5) adjusting the mixture/solution to a final
  15 desired pH by adding appropriate amounts of a
  concentrated potassium hydroxide solution and thereafter
  if desired,
- 6) admixing any remaining water and optional ingredients such as an anti-microbial for example
  20 Proxel® GXL (CAS 2634-33-5), sorbic acid, Legend MK, mixtures thereof and the like.

The conversion of a fatty acid such as pelargonic acid to salt such as a potassium salt is the step
25 requiring most scrutiny of the process of this invention.

Pelargonic acid is a thin, clear oil at room temperature which sits on the surface of water when

30 added. With mild agitation, the conversion time to form the salt of the fatty acid is slow. Extreme agitation and long batch stirring time are generally necessary to make the conversion complete which is desired.

In laboratory test batches, preparation of formulations of this invention was generally done by making the fatty acid salt in a separate smaller premix vessel using a beaker and vigorous agitation. This

premix was then added to the already mixed ingredients in a larger first container.

As used herein the term "vigorous agitation"

5 includes stirring or mixing by any mechanical or
equivalent means to produce a well mixed composition
providing thorough blending.

The process of preparing a formulation of this

10 invention may be done at temperatures in the range from
about 10°C to about 100°C and preferably from about 20°C
to about 40°C.

As another optional ingredient, an anti-foam 15 agent may be included. Various suitable anti-foam agents include SAG 47 which is preferred as an antifoam agent and Silicone Anti Foam® 30 IND.

The amount of anti-foam agent optionally employed
is that which is sufficient to control and reduce an
amount of foam which may be formed during the process
of preparation of the formulation of this invention to a
desired satisfactory level from a user's viewpoint.
Generally the concentration of anti-foam agent is in the
range from about 0.001% by weight of the total
ingredients to about 0.1% although greater or lesser
amounts of optional anti-foam agent may be employed.

Alternatively, a premix of about 1 part by weight

Roundup® herbicide, about 2 parts water and potassium
hydroxide as a 20 percent by weight solution was used to
form a premix. Pelargonic acid was blended in this
premix but thereafter separated easily. The benefit of
this (alternative) process of preparation was that the

premix went into the batch water with only mild
agitation. Care must be given to prevent possible heavy
residue in the premix beaker.

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The most preferred previously described process requires some agitation. It may be likely that the addition of the fatty acid at the suction side of a flow through homogenizer Tekmar for example, into the potassium hydroxide composition would be sufficient to produce the desired amount of agitation.

In a preferred process for preparing formulations of this invention, the vessel wherein the formulation

10 will be 50 gallons or more is initially charged with about 25% of the total desired water. Gentle agitation or recirculation is begun during and after this initial water addition. A base providing hydroxide in water is added as is optionally an ethoxylated tallowamine

15 surfactant such as Entry II® Surfactant, sold by Monsanto Company, St. Louis, Missouri USA.

Agitation is increased and the added fatty acid is allowed to react. When the reaction is considered complete, the fatty acid appears homogeneous and not aggregated at the surface of the resulting composition. About half of the remaining desired water is added as are desired amounts of the isopropylamine salt of glyphosate, and optionally Proxel and Sag 47 with time allowed for adequate mixing. Thereafter remaining desired water is added and the pH is adjusted using potassium hydroxide.

Ready to use formulations having C<sub>9</sub> or C<sub>10</sub> fatty
30 acids in the range from about 0.5 to about 1% by weight
of the total spray weight were the most effective
formulations from a herbicidal efficacy viewpoint with
mixtures thereof providing similar efficacy.

The formulations of the present invention can be readily used as prepared or further diluted in water by a user in a spray container prior to use, although those

30

of skill in the art will recognize that the dilution will have a practical dilution limit set by efficacy.

Suitable herbicidally efficacious application

5 rates of glyphosate will vary depending on plant
species, weather, climate and geography. The spray
volume is in the range from about 10 to about 1000
gallons per acre (gpa) (93.6 liters per hectare to about
9360 liters per hectare) preferably from about 50 to

10 about 250 gpa (468 - 2340 liters per hectare). US
Patent 3,799,758 provides illustrative application rates
of glyphosate on an acid equivalent basis.

The following examples are presented to

illustrate the present invention as well as some of the various embodiments of the invention. These examples are presented as being illustrative of the novel formulations and are not intended to be a limitation of the scope thereof. Rather these examples are intended to teach by illustration and provide what is believed to be a useful and readily understood description of procedures to make and use the invention.

In the examples, all parts, percentages and
properties are by weight unless otherwise indicated. In
some examples, comparative formulations illustrative of
the prior art were made and compared to compositions of
this invention.

EXAMPLES

#### General Methods

Tall fescue, common bermuda, common dandelion, sweet clover and large crabgrass were grown from seed in 4 inch (10.16 centimeters) square pots containing a mixture of soil and commercial soil conditioners. After planting, the soil was kept moist and seedlings emerged in 5-8 days. Approximately 2 weeks after emergence, plants were mowed to a uniform height of 6 cm. Height

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was maintained at 6 cm with 3 mowings per week for fescue, bermuda and crabgrass and with 1 mowing per week for dandelion and clover. Unless otherwise noted, all species except crabgrass were about 8 weeks old at the time of treatment. Crabgrass was 4-5 weeks old. Treatments were applied with a Devilbiss atomizer using compressed air. Chemicals were formulated as described for individual tests. For quick symptom development (1-3 DAT), evaluations were made on a 0-3 scale where

10

0=no effect

1=injury noticeable compared to untreated control 2=injury obvious 3=injury dramatic

15

Percent control ratings at later time periods were made on a 0-100 scale where 0=no effect and 100 is complete death. Results are the average of 2 replications.

20

#### Example 1

Combinations of C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> saturated fatty acids as its potassium salt with Glyphosate and an ethoxylated tallow amine surfactant having a degree of ethoxylation of about 15 to 18 were prepared.

Eight formulations containing either 0.5% or 1% C<sub>8</sub>, C<sub>9</sub>, C<sub>10</sub> or C<sub>12</sub> saturated fatty acids in 0.96%

30 glyphosate-IPA and 0.36% ethoxylated tallow amine surfactant were applied respectively at 225, 112 or 56 gallons per acre (2106, 946, or 524 liters per hectare) to 8 week old fescue and bermuda, 5 week old dandelion and sweet clover and 4 week old crabgrass. Visual

35 observations of burndown were made 1 DAT (Day After Treatment) on 0-3 scale and at 26 DAT on 0-100 scale. Results are in Table 1.

mine

| rable 1. Wee<br>sur | Weed control<br>surfactant. | rol<br>t. | th     | combinations   | of     | fatty | acids,    | glyphosate |        | and ethoxylated |      | tallow a  | E E |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|--------|-------|-----------|------------|--------|-----------------|------|-----------|-----|
|                     | 71                          | Fescu     | ue     | Beri           | ermuda |       | Dandelion | ion        | Clover | er              | Crab | Craborass |     |
| v acid              | Ha                          | *         | 26*    | -4             | 52     | •     | 1 2       | 9          | -1     | 26<br>26        | -1   | 26        |     |
| None } Prior        |                             | *         | ***86  | 0              | 86     |       |           | 00         | 0      | 70              | 0    | 86        |     |
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| ී<br>ක              |                             | -         | 80     | 0              | 09     |       |           | 2          | 7      | 30              | -1   | 95        |     |
| τς<br>Se            |                             | ~         | 66     | <b>~</b> 1     | 92     |       |           | 007        | 0      | 09              | 7    | 86        |     |
| •                   |                             | ત         | 95     | 0              | 06     |       |           | 001        | ႕      | 20              | н    | 95        |     |
| رن<br>مو            |                             | 0         | 80     | 0              | 09     |       |           | ລ          | 0      | 20              | -    | 95        |     |
| œ                   |                             | 7         | 66     | 0              | 9      |       |           | 001        | 0      | 09              | ന    | 86        |     |
| ор ,                |                             | -1        | 95     | 0              | 8      |       |           | ລ          | н      | 30              | 7    | 66        |     |
| ლ<br>ლ              |                             | 0         | 80     | 0              | 20     |       |           | 00         | -      | 20              | 0    | 86        |     |
| ٠<br>س              |                             | -1        | 66     | -              | 95     |       |           | 007        | ~      | 70              | ~    | 66        |     |
| ဝ.<br>၁<br>၂<br>၂   | 946                         | , →       | ල<br>ව | 0              | 06     |       | 0         | 100        | 7      | 50              | ᆏ    | 86        |     |
| W                   |                             | 0         | 70     | 0              | 20     |       |           | ວ          | 0      | 30              | 0    | 86        |     |
|                     |                             |           |        |                |        |       |           |            |        |                 |      |           |     |

\* Days after treatment \*\* Rated on 0~3 scale \*\*\* Rated on 0-100 scale

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#### Example 2

Efficacy of  $C_9$  and  $C_{10}$  saturated fatty acids as the potassium salt alone and in mixtures in combinations with glyphosate.

Eight week old tall fescue and bermuda, 4 week old crabgrass and 2 week old yellow nutsedge were sprayed with C<sub>9</sub> and C<sub>10</sub> saturated fatty acids at 0.5 and 10 1% w/v alone and in mixtures at volumes of 56, 112 and 225 gal/A (524, 946 and 2106 liters per hectare). Yellow nutsedge had not been mowed prior to spraying. Visual observations of burndown were made on a 0-3 scale 1 DAT and percent control was evaluated on a 0-100 scale 29 DAT. Results are in Table 2.

In Table 2 following C<sub>9</sub> and C<sub>10</sub> fatty acids and mixtures of both give significant enhancement of final control of yellow nutsedge by glyphosate, as indicated.

20 Mixtures appear more potent in this regard than either C<sub>9</sub> or C<sub>10</sub> fatty acid on its own. The fatty acids without glyphosate have zero effect on yellow nutsedge. Yellow nutsedge is a major problem weed and one that is typically difficult to control with glyphosate-based products.

**Table 2.** Weed control with combinations of glyphosate with  $c_{
m p}$  and  $c_{
m 10}$  saturated fatty acids. nutsedge Crabgrass Bermuda 1 29 0 95 Fescue 524 2106 524 524 524 524 524 Prior art art) Glyphosate ae .748 

\* Days after treatment ae is glyphosate acid equivalent

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#### Example 3

Effect of  $C_9$  and  $C_{10}$  saturated fatty acids as its potassium salt on glyphosate.

5

Formulations containing 0.96% IPA-glyphosate (.74% ae) and 0.4% ethoxylated tallow amine surfactant having a degree of ethoxylation of 15 to 18 were prepared as shown in Table 3a. In addition a concentrated formulation containing 16.5% IPA-glyphosate, 6.15% ethoxylated tallow amine surfactant having a degree of ethoxylation of 15 to 18 and 4.1% C<sub>9</sub> + 4.1% C<sub>10</sub> fatty acid was diluted and sprayed at the same final concentration of active. Treatments were applied at 56 and 112 gal/A (524 and 946 liters per hectare). Visual observations of injury were recorded 1, 3 and 25 days after treatment. Results are shown in Tables 3a and 3b.

20

#### Example 4

Use of C<sub>9</sub> saturated fatty acid for enhanced burndown with Roundup® LLG ready-to-use herbicide.

Results of treatments of Roundup® LLG ready-to-25 use herbicide alone and in mixture with C<sub>9</sub> saturated fatty acid at 0.5% and at 1.0% of the spray solution are shown in Table 4.

#### Example 5

The effect of pH adjustment on performance of a mixture of Roundup® LLG ready-to-use herbicide containing 1% C<sub>9</sub> saturated fatty acid is shown in Table 5.

Table 3a.

| Ø | Glyphosat<br>hectare) . | Glyphosate combined with<br>hectare). | saturated fatty | fatty          | acids      | applied  | a<br>t   | 56 gal/acre | (524 | (524 liters | per  |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|----------|----------|-------------|------|-------------|------|
|   |                         |                                       | <u>Fr</u>       | Fescue         |            |          | Clover   | <u>1</u>    | Daj  | ndelion     |      |
|   | ပါဝ                     | C <sub>10</sub> (Prior art)           | <b>#</b>  0     |                | 25         | нc       | 어-       | 25          | -10  | 325         | 1212 |
|   | رن<br>بن<br>هو          |                                       | 0               | , <sub>-</sub> | 0 0        | 0 03     | 1 (2     | Ω<br>Ω      |      | 00          | 0    |
|   | ₩                       | 0                                     | 0               |                | 09         | 8        | 7        | 40          |      | . c         | 0    |
|   | 0                       |                                       |                 | -              | 20         | ~        | 7        | 30          |      | 0           | 0    |
|   | 50<br>46                | •<br>•                                | 0               |                | 09         | 7        | 0        | 30          |      | 0           | 0    |
|   |                         | ****                                  | 0               | N              | 80         | N        | ~        | 30          |      | 0           | 0    |
|   |                         |                                       |                 |                |            |          |          |             |      |             |      |
|   |                         |                                       | Be              | Bermuda        |            | ដ        | Crabdras | ន           |      |             |      |
|   | . ඒ                     | S<br>L                                | <b>*</b>        |                | 25*        | [        | m        | 25          |      |             |      |
|   | Ö                       | 0 (Prior art)                         | 0               |                | 09         | 0        | -        | 82          |      |             |      |
|   | %                       | 0                                     | 0               |                | <u>6</u> 0 | 0        | <b>ન</b> | 06          |      |             |      |
|   | -T                      | 0                                     | 0               |                | 50         | 0        | -1       | 06          |      |             |      |
|   | 0                       | %                                     | 0               | 0              | 20         | <b>ન</b> | ~        | 80          |      |             |      |
|   | %                       | %                                     | 0               |                | 50         | -1       | N        | 70          |      |             |      |
|   |                         | ****                                  | 0               |                | 40         | 0        | ᆏ        | 70          |      |             |      |
|   |                         |                                       |                 |                |            |          |          |             |      |             |      |

\* Days after treatment \*\* Diluted from concentrate

er

| o<br>O   |  | •  |
|--|--|--|
| ente 30. Gipphosate combined With saturated fatty acids applied at 112 gal/acre (946 liters per<br>hectare). | Dandelion  3 25 0 90 0 80 0 80 1 85  | ,  |
| 46   | 00 0 1 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 | )  |
| 9<br>5)  | 400000   | ,  |
| /acr   |  |  |
| gal  | 1111000000   |  |
| 777  | 25<br>20<br>20<br>20<br>30<br>30   | 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2  |
| ב<br>ק<br>ד  | C1 0 Ver<br>2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2  | Crabdrass 1<br>1 1 9 2 2 2 9 9 2 2 2 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9   |
| ์<br>1<br>1  | 4400040  | ा<br>विवस्तन   |
| <u> </u>   |  |  |
|  | . <b>*</b> i   | .*!  |
| ;<br>;   |  | 25 * 25 * 25 * 25 * 25 * 25 * 25 * 25 *  |
|  | Fescue<br>1 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2  | Bermuda<br>3*<br>0<br>0<br>0<br>1<br>1   |
|  | * 0  | * 00000  |
|  | Merrana  | 1400000  |
|  |  |  |
|  | art)   | art)   |
|  | lor  | lor  |
|  | 60 (Prior 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00   | C <sub>10</sub> (Prior of the contract o |
| •  | ผ์๐๐๐ ํํ ํํ ํํ   | บ์อออ 🖫 🖫  |
| are)   |  | *  |
| hect   |  | OO • H O • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •   |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

\* Days after treatment
\*\* Diluted from concentrate

Effect of  $C_{\rho}$  fatty acid on performance of commercially available Roundup RIU® harbicide. Table 4.

|           | Q.      |          |              |          | 0      |        |            |              | 0           | _    |                   | _    |  |
|-----------|---------|----------|--------------|----------|--------|--------|------------|--------------|-------------|------|-------------------|------|--|
|           | raborag | 200      | 0            | 0 0      | 0 100  |        | 9          | 6            | 2 2         | 90   | 6                 | 9 0  |  |
|           | ניי     | -        | 10           | 0        | 0      |        | 0          | -            | ·           | 7    | N                 | l M  |  |
|           | lover   | 20       | 109          | 06       | 1 95   |        | 20         | 85           | 3<br>3<br>3 | 9    | 85                | 0 0  |  |
|           | Clo     | -        | 10           | -        | -      |        | N          | ~            | 8           | ~    | 8                 | ~    |  |
|           | delion  | 20       | 12           | 100      | 0 100  |        | 80         | 100          | 100         | 66   | 86                | 86   |  |
|           | Dan     |          | 10           | 0        | 0      |        | 0          | 0            | 0           | 0    | -                 | ႕    |  |
|           | Bermuda | 1 20     | 0 85         | 86 0     | 86 0   | ,      | 08 0       | 06 0         | 96 0        | 09 0 | 0 95              | 0 95 |  |
|           |         |          |              |          | 66     |        |            |              |             |      |                   |      |  |
| •         | Fesc    | *        | **           | 0        | 0      |        |            | 0            |             | 0    |                   | -    |  |
| nerbicide |         | I/Ha     | 524          | 946      | 2106   | i<br>i | 524        | 946          | 2106        | 524  | 946               | 2106 |  |
| ner       |         | Additive | None } Prior | <u>~</u> | None } | d      | φ ,<br>Ω : | O. 5%<br>Co. | ιΩ<br>Φ     | ю,   | 1% C <sub>2</sub> | ₩    |  |
|           |         |          |              |          |        |        |            |              |             |      |                   |      |  |

\* Days after treatment
\*\* Rated on a 0-3 scale
\*\*\* Rated on a 0-100 scale

Effect of pH on activity of glyphosate with 1% C, fatty acid. Table 5.

|               |      | 14 | Fescue   | į   |    | Clover   |    |   | Danc       | Dandelion |     |
|---------------|------|----|----------|-----|----|----------|----|---|------------|-----------|-----|
| Treatment     | L/Ha | ₩  | #<br>M   | 28* | -4 | m        | 28 |   | -4         | M         | 28  |
| Roundup RTU   |      | 0  | 0        | 0   | 0  | H        | 0  |   | 0          | 0         | 9   |
|               |      | 0  | 0        | 20  | 0  | ႕        | 0  |   | 0          | 0         | 100 |
|               | 57   | 0  | 0        | 20  | -  | -        | 0  |   | 0          | 0         | 66  |
|               | Ó    | 0  | 0        | 50  | -  | <b>~</b> | 9  |   | 0          | 0         | 86  |
| +FA** pH 6.4  | 524  | 0  | ႕        | 10  | ~  | ~        | 0  |   | 0          | 0         | 20  |
|               | 4    | 0  | ~        | 09  | ~  | က        | 90 |   | 0          | <b>-</b>  | 70  |
|               | 1572 | 7  | ~        | 70  | က  | က        | 92 |   | 0          | -         | 40  |
|               | 10   | н  | က        | 06  | ო  | ო        | 10 |   | -          | ~         | 100 |
| +FA** pH 6.75 | 2    | 0  | -1       | 10  | ~  | 0        | 30 |   | 0          | 0         | 20  |
|               | 4    | 0  | ~        | 10  | ~  | က        | 20 |   | 0          | 0         | 100 |
|               |      | 0  | ~        | 30  | ~  | ო        | 90 |   | 0          | -         | 100 |
|               | 10   | 0  | ო        | 50  | ന  | က        | 30 |   | 0          | -         | 30  |
| +FA** pH 7.25 | N    | 0  | 0        | 0   | 7  | 0        | 0  |   | 0          | 0         | 20  |
|               | 4    | 0  | 0        | 0   | 7  | 0        | 10 |   | 0          | 0         | 20  |
|               | 1572 | 0  | <b>~</b> | 20  | ~  | ო        | 80 |   | 0          | -         | 100 |
|               | 2106 | 0  | ~        | 10  | 7  | ო        | 90 |   | 0          | -         | 20  |
| +FA** pH 7.71 | 524  | 0  | 0        | 0   | ~  | 7        | 20 |   | 0          | <b>~</b>  | 20  |
|               |      | 0  | ⊣        | 10  | ~  | ന        | 80 |   | 0          | -         | 100 |
|               | 1572 | 0  | Н        | 20  | ~  | ო        | 90 |   | 0          | -         | 100 |
|               | 0    |    | 20       | 7   | ო  | 70       |    | 0 | <b>-</b> 1 | 100       |     |

\* Days after treat \*\* Roundup TRU + 1% C, fatty acid

| •             |      | Be       | Bermuda       |                | Crab          | Traboraga       |             |
|---------------|------|----------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Treatment     | L/Ha | <b>*</b> | ლ <br>*       | <b>28</b> *    | -             | <b>с</b> і      | 28          |
| Roundup RIU   | N    | 0        | 0             | 10             | c             | c               | n<br>n      |
|               | 4    | 0        | 0             | 70             | <b>,</b> c    | <b>,</b>        | ט מ<br>ט ת  |
|               | ~    | 0        | 0             | 70             | . 0           |                 | , Q<br>Ω    |
| 1             | 2106 | 0        | <b>~</b>      | 06             |               | · <del></del> 1 | , Q         |
| +FA** pH 6.4  | 2    | 0        | 0             | 10             | 0             | i +4            | 0           |
|               | 94   | 0        | <b>~</b>      | 09             | <b>~</b>      | N               | 86          |
|               | 7    | 0        | ~             | 09             | -             | m               | 8           |
|               | 10   | 0        | ~             | 06             |               | က               | 8           |
| +ra** ph 6.75 | 2    | 0        | 0             | 10             | 0             | 0               | 80          |
|               | 94   | 0        | -1            | 50             | -             | . ~             | 0<br>0      |
|               | ~    | 0        | -1            | 20             | -             | . ~             | Б           |
| :             | 10   | 0        | -1            | 50             | ·             | ı en            | , G         |
| +FA** pH 7.25 | 2    | 0        | 0             | 20             | 0             | . 0             | ) C         |
|               | 94   | 0        | Н             | 20             |               | · 6             | 0 0         |
|               | 7    | 0        |               | 06             | · <del></del> | 1 (5)           | 1 0         |
|               | 10   | 0        | ~             | 06             | ۰,            | 1 c             | 2 0         |
| +FA** pH 7.71 | N    | 0        | ,<br>O        | 10             | , c           | ) C             | 0 0         |
|               | 4    | 0        | ·             | 10             | o c           | ) r             | 0 0         |
| -             | 57   | 0        | · <b>-</b> -  | ) <del>[</del> | · c           | 1 6             | ) i         |
|               | 0    | 0        | ı <del></del> | 2 5            | <b>.</b>      | v (             | ດ ແ<br>ກ. c |
|               |      | ٠        | ı             | <b>)</b>       | >             | v               | ע<br>ט      |
|               |      |          |               |                |               |                 |             |

\* Days after treatment \*\* Roundup RTU + 1% C, fatty acid

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Although this invention has been described with respect to specific embodiments, the details hereof are not to be construed as limitations, for it will be apparent that various equivalents, changes and modifications may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of this invention and it is understood that such equivalent embodiments are intended to be included within the scope of this invention.

#### WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- An agriculturally acceptable herbicidally effective composition providing initial visible symptoms
   of contact of a fatty acid or fatty acid salt component hereof and longer term herbicidal kill or control by N-phosphonomethylglycine or an N-phosphonomethylglycine salt component hereof, comprising effective amounts of each of:
  - a) a herbicidally effective amount of N-phosphonomethylglycine or one or more agriculturally acceptable water soluble salts thereof or mixtures thereof or a compound which metabolizes thereto and
- b) a C<sub>5</sub> to C<sub>16</sub> saturated or unsaturated,
  15 straight or branched chain fatty acid or agriculturally acceptable salt thereof or mixture of fatty acids and salt(s) thereof or mixture of salts of fatty acid(s) with or without dilution in water having an application pH in the range from about 6.4 to about 7.8.

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- 2. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said fatty acid is in the range from C<sub>8</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> saturated or unsaturated, straight or branched chain fatty acid or agriculturally acceptable salt thereof or mixture of fatty acids and salt(s) thereof or mixture of salts of fatty acid(s) with or without dilution in water having an application pH in the range from about 6.4 to about 7.8.
- 30
- 3. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the ratio of component a) to component b) is in the range from about 1:10 to about 10:1.
- 4. The composition of Claim 2 wherein the ratio of component a) to component b) is in the range from about 1:5 to about 5:1.

5. The composition of Claim 2 wherein said agriculturally acceptable water soluble salt of N-phosphonomethylglycine is the isopropylamine salt of N-phosphonomethylglycine.

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6. The composition of Claim 2 wherein said agriculturally acceptable water soluble salt of N-phosphonomethylglycine is the trimethylsulfonium salt of N-phosphonomethylglycine.

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7. The composition of Claim 2 wherein said fatty acid salt is the potassium salt of capric acid or the potassium salt of pelargonic acid or a mixture of the potassium salts of capric and pelargonic acids.

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8. The composition of Claim 4 wherein the pH of the composition after dilution in water if necessary is in the range from about 6.8 to about 7.0 and enhanced shelf-stability is provided.

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- 9. The composition of Claim 6, wherein an additional surfactant is employed.
- 10. The composition of Claim 9, wherein said 25 surfactant is an ethoxylated tallow amine.
  - 11. The composition of Claim 9, wherein an additional antifoam is employed.
- 30 12. The composition of Claim 11 wherein the said antifoam is SAG 47.
- 13. A method of killing or controlling weeds where a herbicidally effective amount of the composition35 of Claim 1 is applied to said weeds to kill or control.
  - 14. The method of Claim 13 wherein said composition is the composition of Claim 2.

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- 15. The method of Claim 13 wherein said composition is the composition of Claim 3.
- 5 16. The method of Claim 13 wherein said composition is the composition of Claim 4.
  - 17. The method of Claim 13 wherein said composition is the composition of Claim 5.
- 18. The method of Claim 13 where in said composition is the composition of Claim 6.
- 19. A process for preparing said composition of 15 Claim 1 by adding together in any order
  - a) a herbicidally effective amount of N-phosphonomethylglycine or an agriculturally acceptable water soluble salt thereof or mixtures thereof and
- b) a C<sub>5</sub> to C<sub>16</sub> or preferably C<sub>8</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> saturated 20 or unsaturated, straight or branched chain fatty acid or an agriculturally acceptable salt(s) thereof or mixtures thereof, and wherein a base is employed to provide a said composition with a pH after dilution in water if necessary in the range from about 6.4 to about 7.8.
  - 20. The process of Claim 19 wherein said pH is in the range from about 6.8 to about 7.0.
- 21. The process of Claim 20 wherein said pH is 30 controlled by addition of a hydroxide or an amine.
  - 22. The process of Claim 21 wherein said hydroxide is an amine, an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal hydroxide.
  - 23. The process of Claim 22 wherein said alkali metal hydroxide is potassium or sodium hydroxide.

- 24. The process of Claim 23 wherein said alkali metal hydroxide is potassium hydroxide.
- 25. A process of preparing an enhanced pesticide 5 composition of Claim 1 by the additional step in any order of adding all or a portion of the desired amount of optional initial water in a first container.
- 26. The process of Claim 25 for preparing the enhanced pesticide composition of Claim 1 by the additional step of adding potassium hydroxide to the desired amount of fatty acid in a separate container from a first container to form a premix.
- 27. The process of Claim 26 for preparing the enhanced pesticide composition of Claim 1 comprising the further additional step of adding said fatty acid containing said hydroxide in the premix from the separate container to the one container containing the initial water and additional surfactant.
- 28. The process of Claim 27 further comprising the additional process step of adding the glyphosate salt, antimicrobial and antifoam to the mixture claimed in claim 27.
- 29. The process of Claim 28 which comprises the yet additional process step of adjusting said mixture/ solution in claim 28 to a final desired pH by adding appropriate amounts of a hydroxide solution.
- 30. The process of Claim 29 which comprises the yet further additional process step of admixing any remaining water and optional ingredients to said composition of Claim 29.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/US 91/09621

| I. CLASSIFIC                                  | ATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (If several class   | silication symbols apply, indicate all) <sup>8</sup>  |   |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|
|   | nternational Patent Classification (IPC) or to both   |   |   |  |  |
| IPC5: A U                                     | L N 57/20, 37/00//(A 01 N 37  | 700, 37:02, 37:06)  | •   |  |  |
| IL FIELDS SE                                  | ARCHED  |   |   |  |  |
|   | Minimum Docur   | nentation Searched <sup>7</sup>   |   |  |  |
| Classification Sy                             | stem  | Classification Symbols  |   |  |  |
|   | l   |   |   |  |  |
| TROF  |   |   |   |  |  |
| IPC5  | A 01 N  |   |   |  |  |
|   | <del>-</del>  | ner than Minimum Documentation<br>this are included in Fields Searched <sup>8</sup>                             |   |  |  |
|   |   |   |   |  |  |
|   |   |   |   |  |  |
| · · · · · ·                                   | IS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANTS   |   | In  |  |  |
|   | Citation of Document,11 with Indication, where a  | <del></del>   | Relevant to Claim No.13   |  |  |
| x us,   | A, 4436547 (M.J. SAMPSON) see the abstract; column 2  | 13 March 1984,  | 1-30  |  |  |
| }   | column 11, lines 10-29; co  |   |   |  |  |
|   | 62-63   | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·   | `   |  |  |
|   |   |   |   |  |  |
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| X STN   |   | CTV   | 7 20  |  |  |
|   | International, File CABA,   | adiuvants alvohosate  | 1-30  |  |  |
|   | icacy and post-spraying rais  |   |   |  |  |
|   | nt Protection Quarterly, (19  |   |   |  |  |
|   |   |   |   |  |  |
|   | <del></del>   |   | ·   |  |  |
| X STN   | International, File CABA,   | STN according to  | 1-30  |  |  |
| 91:   | 10805, D.G. Shilling et al:   | "Influence of   | 1-30  |  |  |
| surfactants and additives on phytotoxicity of |   |   |   |  |  |
| gly   | phosate to torpedograss",   |   |   |  |  |
| Jour  | rnal of Aquatic Plant Manage  | ement, (1990) 28 23-27  |   |  |  |
|   |   |   |   |  |  |
| - 1   | -   |   |   |  |  |
|   |   |   |   |  |  |
| l   | •   |   | !   |  |  |
|   | gories of cited documents; <sup>10</sup><br>defining the general state of the art which is not<br>to be of particular relevance | "T" later document published after ;<br>or priority date and not in confin<br>cited to understand the principle | he international filing date at with the application but or theory underlying the |  |  |
|   | cument but published on or after the internations   | "X" document of particular relevance  | , the claimed invention   |  |  |
| "L" document                                  | which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or<br>ited to establish the publication data of another                             | rannot be considered novel or ca<br>involve an inventive step   | the claimed imention  |  |  |
|   | other special re2200 (22 specified)<br>referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition o                                       | cannot be considered to involve   | in inventive step when the  |  |  |
| other meas                                    |   | in the art.   |   |  |  |
| later than                                    | the priority date claimed   | "&" document member of the same p   | atent family  |  |  |
| IV. CERTIFICATI                               | Completion of the international Search  | Date of Mailing of this International Se  | erch Report   |  |  |
| 8th April                                     |   | 1 3. 05. 92   |   |  |  |
| International Sear                            | ching Authority   | Signature of Authorized Officer   |   |  |  |
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